

## News briefs

### Snow parade

The 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron hosts its annual snow parade Friday at 4 p.m.

The event begins in the Spangdahlem Air Base Bowling Center parking lot, where several snow removal vehicles will be lined up. Additionally, equipment operators will be on hand to answer questions until the parade begins at 5 p.m.

The parade route goes through the Spangdahlem AB housing area with the "Snow Marshall" and Santa Claus tossing treats to children.

The snow parade is held every year to kick off the snow season by emphasizing safety around snow removal equipment and to show the community the 52nd CES is ready for the winter challenges.

Drivers should stay at least 50 feet away from salt-dispensing equipment to avoid possible paint or body damage to vehicles.

### Dental clinic closure

The Spangdahlem Air Base and Bitburg Annex dental clinics close Nov. 8 at 11:30 a.m. for an official function.

For dental emergencies, visit the Bitburg Emergency Room or call 452-3456.

### MPF reduced manning

The Military Personnel Flight experiences reduced manning in certain sections Wednesday for readiness training. However, the MPF will remain open during its normal operating hours both days.

### Holiday mailing deadlines

**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany --** U.S. Air Forces in Europe Air Postal Squadron officials recently announced the dates to mail packages to ensure they reach the United States in time for the holidays.

To ensure a Christmas delivery, mail packages and letters no later than the following dates:

Parcel airlift -- Dec. 4

Priority parcels -- Dec. 11

First-class letters -- Dec. 11

Express mail -- Dec. 18

Additionally, volunteers are needed at the Eifel post offices through the holiday season.

For more information on mailing guidelines or to volunteer, call the Spangdahlem Air Base Post Office at 452-6038 or the Bitburg Annex Post Office at 452-9406.

### Vehicle option

Since the used parts lot is now closed, people interested in getting rid of their vehicles can call Hans Braun at 0170-8164265.

### AAFES news

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service has announced it will refrain from selling pesticides, herbicides, fungicides and insecticides for outside use in its stores in Germany.

AAFES has taken this step to comply with German laws concerning the merchandising of these products. A waiver is being requested from the German government to sell these items as before. This affects only AAFES stores in Germany. (AAFES Public Affairs)

# Eifel Times

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Oct. 31, 2002



Staff Sgt. Timothy Cook

### Trick or treat

Toy Story 2's Jessie, also known as Hannah Keeler, 7-year-old daughter of Sully, AKA John, and Master Sgt. Dawn Keeler, 52nd Fighter Wing command group, gets a last-minute fitting in her costume. Trick-or-treating takes place tonight from 6-8. People are reminded to be watchful when driving through housing units.

## Operation Warm Heart begins; offers help to wing members

### Donations help make holiday season brighter

**By Master Sgt. Thomas Wilson**  
Operation Warm Heart chairman

Operation Warm Heart is a program sponsored by the 52nd Fighter Wing chaplains and first sergeant's council. It's aimed at providing financial assistance for holiday meals to families who are having a difficult time making ends meet.

The goal is to give money for groceries in hopes that families can use their money to buy gifts and make the holidays brighter for their children.

While the majority of the financial assistance is granted during the holiday season, emergency grants and loans are provided throughout the year as needed to any Team Eifel member. Most assistance comes in the form of a check, which is payable only to base commissaries. Other limited financial assistance may be granted, but only on a case-by-case basis.

In order to provide this goodwill, the first sergeants and chaplains rely on cash donations from base private organizations, local communities and individuals.

The chapel has designated selected offerings specifically for Operation Warm Heart while the first sergeants have positioned collection containers throughout the base. These locations include: unit orderly rooms, both the Saber and Spang Clubs, the Spangdahlem Air Base Post Office and Eifel Arms Inn.

Last year, 262 Team Eifel families were helped with the more than \$11,900 donated. A couple of organizations have already generously contributed, including the Spangdahlem Spouses and Enlisted Members Club, \$2,000; and the members of the 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, more than \$500.

Operation Warm Heart depends on the Eifel community for its support. Each donation will help make the holidays brighter for those families and Team Eifel members in a time of need.

For more information about Operation Warm Heart or questions about contributing, call Master Sgt. Thomas Wilson at 452-6331 or call any first sergeant or chaplain.

## U.S. Air Forces in Europe on its way to meeting CFC goal

### Team Eifel pledged more than \$108,000

**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany —** U.S. Air Forces in Europe military members and civilian employees have pledged more than \$506,000 near the midway point of this year's Combined Federal Campaign.

Spangdahlem Air Base has donated more than \$108,000 so far, according to Master Sgt.

Stan Gilmore, base CFC project officer.

"Giving to worthwhile charities is one thing that we can do to improve quality of life not only in our own military communities, but also around the world," said Senior Master Sgt. Suzanne Ramey, CFC command campaign manager. "With over 1,400 approved U.S. national and international charity organizations in this year's overseas campaign, there are worthwhile causes available for everyone to choose."

This year through Nov. 15, U.S. military members and federal employees stationed overseas have the opportunity to contribute to local family support and youth programs through the Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas (CFC-O).

CFC-O funds are a vital source of revenue for FSYP programs. Created to address a variety of local needs, FSYP programs can vary from providing daycare and emergency assistance to supporting sports and recreation-

al activities. Donors interested in contributing to their local FSYP program simply enter "FSYP" in the "Four-Digit Agency Code" section of their pledge card. Last year, donors opting to support their local installations by designating FSYP as their charity of choice collectively raised more than \$375,000 through the CFC-O.

For more information about donating to the CFC, call Gilmore at 452-7214 or contact unit representatives.



# USAFE security forces wins two medals at Defender Challenge

## Spang airman part of command team

By Airman 1st Class Robyn Dorocak  
86th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

### LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas

-- The U.S. Air Forces in Europe security forces team, including one airman from Spangdahlem Air Base, proved to be among the best claiming two medals at the closing ceremonies of the 20th annual Defender Challenge Competition here Oct. 24.

The USAFE team garnered a silver medal in the Sadler Cup Competition and the bronze in Combat Weapons.

"I'm ecstatic," said Senior Airman Chris Enfinger, 86th Security Forces Squadron, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. "The team did an outstanding job. We gave everything we had and it paid off in the end."

The Sadler Cup is considered the toughest test in Defender Challenge. The event requires teams to plan and execute a challenging tactical operation on short notice. USAFE faced four difficult scenarios, but their skills prevailed.

The USAFE team acquired 855 points during the event, topped by the Air Mobility

Command team with 865 points. Pacific Air Forces took the bronze with 780 points.

"This event was planned to be mentally stimulating for the teams," said Col. Clada Monteith, headquarters USAFE Security Forces deputy director. "Our guys had the ability and know-how to get the job done."

USAFE also brings home the bronze in Combat Weapons gathering 377 total points. Air Force Space Command won gold with 415 points and Air Combat Command placed second with 395 points.

Combat Weapons tested the teams with a combined nighttime fire team field exercise using M-4 rifles and one M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon.

"Having only two-weeks of training before competing, and then bringing home two medals definitely exemplifies how USAFE does business," said Capt. Michael Evancic, 786th SFS, Sembach AB, Germany, and team captain. "It shows our readiness for any mission, anytime - ending with positive results."

Airman 1st Class Richard Serna of the 52nd Security Forces Squadron is proud of the efforts. "Our practices focused on firing and the marksmanship techniques we anticipated seeing in the competition. After each practice, we walked away knowing we're getting better



Staff Sgt. Justin D. Pyle

Capt. Michael Evancic, 86th Security Forces Squadron, Ramstein Air Base, takes aim in preparation for the Combat Weapons competition portion of 2002 Defender Challenge held at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Competitors were scored on tactics as well as night shooting ability during this phase of competition. The U.S. Air Forces in Europe team placed third overall in the Combat Weapons competition and second in the Sadler Cup.

at our skills. We pushed ourselves harder everyday - taking each practice up a level."

"We're really proud of the team," said

Monteith. "The team truly pulled together and excelled under pressure." (U.S. Air Forces in Europe News Service)



Staff Sgt. Timothy Cook

### How does this work?

Staff Sgt. Jeff Tagle, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron power production craftsman, inspects the barrier arresting system recently at Spangdahlem Air Base.

## Accidents

By John W. Keeler

52nd Security Forces Squadron Reports and Analysis

Sixteen Team Eifel members experienced vehicle accidents in the past week, three of which were major.

■The first major accident was on L-49 between Bonbogen and Wittlich. A civilian employee told security forces that a local national ran a yield sign and ran into the side of his vehicle. There were no injuries. Polizei responded and conducted the investigation. Damage to the vehicle, which was towed from the scene, consisted of a crushed passenger-side fender and a broken side mirror.

■The second was on B-50 near Spangdahlem. An airman traveling in the direction of Bitburg said he lost control of his vehicle while going around a turn and collided with a local national. There were injuries, but the extent of the injuries is unknown. The accident is pending investigation by Bitburg Polizei.

■The third was on B-50 near Metterich. An airman traveling toward Spangdahlem also lost control of his vehicle when he applied his brakes, veered into oncoming traffic and collided with a tractor-trailer. The airman was transported to the Bitburg Emergency Room for hand injuries. The local national driving the large vehicle was not injured. Bitburg Polizei responded and assumed investigation. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

The 13 minor accidents involved:

- Six from inattentive driving.
- One while backing.
- One animal strike.
- One too fast for conditions.
- Four accidents were caused by the fault of others.

In addition, 34 citations were issued.

### Abandoned vehicles

The 52nd Security Forces Squadron are impounding vehicles suspected of being abandoned. The following identifies abandoned vehicles:

- Vehicles that do not bear license plates.
- Vehicles with expired registration or that are uninsured.
- Vehicles in non-operational status.
- Vehicles parked for more than 24 hours.
- Unightly vehicles (broken windows, flat tires, excessive damage, etc. ...).

Once a vehicle is cited as abandoned, the owner has 72 hours to move the vehicle and contact security forces. If the vehicle is not moved, it will be towed to a temporary storage facility. The owner will be charged a \$100 fee to cover the movement and storage of the vehicle.

Additionally, owners may find themselves being charged under the Uniform Code of Military Justice for committing this offense. For more information, call Senior Airman Dominic Cirincione at 452-6160.



## Two Eifel officers nominated as command candidates

**WASHINGTON** — The 2002 Command Screening Board, which met for a week and a half in September at the Air Force senior leader management office, recently selected 473 officers as command candidates. Two of those selected are members of Team Eifel.

Col. H.D. Polumbo Jr., 52nd Operations Group commander; and Lt. Col. Darryl W. Burke, NATO AWACS, Geilenkirchen, Germany, were selected as command candidates.

These candidates are now eligible to compete for the 302 wing and group commander vacancies and materiel leader positions available from April 2003 through March 2004.

The CSB is composed of 21 general officers including this year's four-star board president, Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Robert H. Foglesong. Other members include vice commanders from the major commands, and senior generals from various functional areas.

They reviewed the personnel records of 1,937 eligible colonels and colonel-selects to find those with the highest potential as command candidates.

"The intent of the CSB is to ensure all officers who meet the approved eligibility criteria, based on Total Active Federal Commissioned Service and experience within specific functional career fields, are able to compete for key leadership billets," said Lt. Col. Donald J. Barnes, chief of the AFSLMO's plans, analysis and records division at the Pentagon.

According to Barnes, an officer may not have been identified as a command candidate because the board felt this was not the right time in his or her career or that person could have been a deputy commander whom the board felt needed more experience. An officer could also be in a position in which the board believed was in the best interest of the Air Force for him or her to remain.

Officers not selected for command and who remain eligible for command positions will have another opportunity at being selected by the next screening board. (Air Force Print News)



Staff Sgt. Timothy Cook

### Annual shower

About 25 people from throughout the wing volunteered to wash the aircraft at the Spangdahlem Air Base air park. According to Staff Sgt. Jose Castilleja, 52nd Maintenance Group manning manager and air park custodian, the washing took about four hours. The annual cleaning, organized by the 52nd Maintenance Operations Squadron, happened to coincide with the Installation Excellence Award team visit, which took place Tuesday. Spangdahlem AB competes with Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, for the opportunity to represent U.S. Air Forces in Europe in the Air Force Installation Excellence Award. The winner of the USAFE competition will receive \$500,000, while the winner of the Air Force-level award garners \$1 million toward quality-of-life projects.

## Eifel Elite



Staff Sgt. Timothy Cook

Tech. Sgt. Donna Jackson, 52nd Fighter Wing Chapel, is this week's Top Saber Performer.

### Top Saber Performer

**Name:** Tech. Sgt. Donna Jackson

**Unit/duty title:** 52nd Fighter Wing Chapel resource manager

**Hometown:** Interlachen, Fla.

**Time in service:** 19 years

**Contributions to the 52nd Fighter Wing's mission success:** "Tech. Sgt. Jackson makes the chaplain service at the 52nd Fighter Wing run smoothly. She also teaches self-aid buddy care, just to help the wing out. She's an outstanding representative of the wing," said Chap. (Col.) Carl Andrews, 52nd FW chaplain.

**Off duty volunteerism and professional development pursuits:** Hoping to pursue a bachelor's degree in mathematics.

**What do you do for fun? Or, what's a fun thing you've done lately?** I enjoy shopping and travelling, as well as trying to speak the language of the countries I visit.

**What do you like most about being stationed here?** The location of the base. I enjoy the country life and the people I have met.

**What's one thing you'd like to see changed or improved at Spangdahlem Air Base:** I'd like for some of the agencies like AAFES, the bank and credit union and military clothing sales to open earlier to serve the military members better.



Staff Sgt. Timothy Cook

The members of the 52nd Fighter Wing Chaplain Service make up this week's Top Saber Team.

### Top Saber Team

**Unit name:** 52nd Fighter Wing Chaplain Service

**Unit responsibilities:** Support Air Force members and their families, Department of Defense and command-sponsored people, by providing for their diverse religious requirements and spiritual needs. Support leaders at every level with counsel about religious requirements, spiritual needs, and moral issues that impact mission, quality of life and religious freedoms. Core processes include religious observances, pastoral care and moral/ethical advice to leaders to enhance the overall wing's spiritual care and ethical leadership.

**Number of members:** Four enlisted members, six officers and one civilian.

**How does the team fit into the 52nd Fighter Wing's mission?** While the 52nd Fighter Wing Chaplain Service team serves as visible reminders of the Holy, they also provide expeditionary-ready chaplain service forces for worldwide contingency operations. Additionally, they provide spiritual care and opportunities to Air Force members, their families, DOD and command-sponsored people assigned to the wing and its geographically-separated units to exercise their constitutional right of freedom of religion.



# Postal team delivers holiday shipping tips

*Preparation makes mailing more manageable, says postal official*

By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Boxes, envelopes and more boxes — the winter holiday season delivers a heavier workload along with a mixed bag of emotions for 52nd Communications Squadron postal clerks. Parcels begin pouring in today and by mid-month, the holiday season is in full swing.

Along with holiday joy comes long waits in post office lines for unprepared customers, but it doesn't have to be that way, according to Master Sgt. Walter Brennen, Spangdahlem Air Base postmaster. A little preparation and planning goes a long way in reducing the wait at the customer service counter. Last year, in- and outbound mail nearly doubled throughout the two-month season. Inbound mail hit a high of 231,000 pounds and clerks processed 85,000 pounds of outbound mail.

"Don't send it all at the last minute," said Airman 1st Class Jacqueline Lopez, postal clerk. "Everyone mailing on the same deadline date often results in a shipping 'traffic jam.'"

To help ensure letters and packages make it to home for the holidays, ship them before the following deadlines: Nov. 20 for Space Available Mail, Dec. 4 for Parcel Airlift Mail, Dec. 11 for priority parcels and first class letters, and Dec. 18 for express mail. SAM is the least expensive option, plus it's good for people shipping large parcels to a distant location. Parcel airlift, priority and express mail all cost more, but take less time. Additionally, priority and express mail are handled less and shipped with more care, said Brennen.

Customers can play a large part in reducing the wait at the post office with preparation. Having packages sealed, properly addressed and complete with a filled-out customs form, saves a lot of time at the service desk, said Brennen. Customers should also have their military ID ready to show to the postal clerk.

Sometimes people hesitate to properly fill out the customs forms because they don't want to give away the gifts inside. When using the form in the plastic pouch, fold the form in half before placing it in the pouch so the recipient can't see the package contents. When using the smaller green customs form, use a general description.

"For instance, you don't have to write out that the box contains a Nintendo 64 - electronic game is fine," said the postmaster.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey  
**Airmen 1st Class Christine Bolin and April Burnette pitch mail into individual post office boxes. Spangdahlem Air Base postal clerks sort and pitch mail for 5,500 boxes daily.**

Customers who would prefer to avoid lines all together can do so by calling for a morning mailing appointment. The post office offers this year 'round service to people mailing five or more packages as a way to save time. Call the Spangdahlem Air Base post office finance section at 452-7182 or the Bitburg Annex finance section at 452-9506.

"It's a lot easier and quicker than trying to mail packages during regular hours and people are a lot less stressed, said Brennen.

"We're pretty maxed out this time of year. Even when people have their packages ready it takes a minimum amount of time to get things done. When people aren't ready, it takes even longer. People get impatient and this only increases the time it takes to get the job done."

The busiest mailing times are during traditional lunch hours from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and after work from 4-5 p.m. To avoid long lines, Brennen suggests customers avoid these hours by scheduling an odd lunch hour or leaving the office early to beat the 4 p.m. rush.

In addition to helping customers, postal workers must still keep watch for suspicious packages and substances. In line with force protection measures, all parcels must be properly addressed, otherwise the package runs the risk of being held indefinitely or destroyed.

"No 'To Daddy' addresses," said Brennen. "The name on the package must match the name on the post office box. At Christmas we get items mailed to 'Sweetheart' and we've tracked the person to call and check if they're expecting such a package, but this takes a lot of time and costs us in lost manpower."

Also, customers must keep track of their packages. Unattended items must be considered "suspicious packages" and can become a "postal nightmare" if workers can't find the owner right away, said Brennen.

One of the toughest challenges postal clerks face during the holiday season is a lack of space, said the postmaster.

Typically, boxes, letters and other packages take up every spare inch of extra space in the post office holding area, including the floors. Having to traverse around the packages takes time and trying to find space for the next day's shipments takes even more time. A simple solution is for people to pick up their packages as soon as possible.

"Sometimes people hold off on picking up packages from Grandma because they don't want their children to see it," said Brennen. "Although we understand, we simply don't have the space."

## Getting here from there Travel puts wear, tear on postal parcels

By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Some of the boxes loaded on the shelves were crushed, dented and torn. Only the addressee will know for sure if the items inside made it to the Spangdahlem Air Base post office in one piece. The postal clerk might find out if the customer opens the package at the window and vents their frustration about their broken shipment.

"People would try to make claims on items that came in broken, but we can't do much here," said Airman 1st Class Jacqueline Lopez. "Most often the items come in like that."

Most of the crushed, dented and torn packages had one thing in common - they weren't packed properly for delivery, according to the Master Sgt. Walter Brennen, base postmaster. One was a "homemade" box created out of cut pieces of cardboard sealed together with single strips of tape. Another dented box was too large and lacked the proper amount of packing material to keep the items inside from jostling around inside. This aside, the boxes came in that way in the morning shipment.

"Very little damage takes place here," he explained. "Because we're a smaller office, our postal clerks are typically more careful



**During the winter holidays, "smalls," packages too small to store on the shelves, but too large to fit in individual post office boxes, occupy every available ledge of the post office holding area, said Brennen.**

with the items because each mail bag unloaded from the truck might contain their own mail."

So where does the damage take place? According to Brennen, the potential for package damage can happen at any time. That's why it's so important to pack well.

Mail enroute to Spangdahlem travels

through six main gateways in the United States, explained the postmaster. If Brennen's family mailed him a gift from a post office in San Diego, Calif., the package would be placed by mechanical processes into a mailbag. The next stop would be the San Francisco airport. Then the mailbag containing Brennen's gift takes a flight to the Frankfurt mail terminal. There, the mailbags are sorted and processed into an Army truck and transported to the base post office where the mailbag contents are temporarily stored and labeled for pickup.

"Everywhere that package is handled, there's a risk of damage," said Brennen.

Additionally, sometimes damage happens when packages aren't handled, he explained. When mailbags get loaded on the trucks, they're often stacked back to front. The goal is to keep the heavier items on the bottom, but sometimes lighter parcels, mixed in with heavier ones, end up at the bottom of the pile.

In addition to packing properly, Lopez suggests customers insure their deliveries. Not only can customers be reimbursed for the package content's worth, it's also a way to track them if they don't arrive on time. Customers can process their claims at the post office finance window. Payment typically takes 30-45 days to collect.

### Pack it well

Proper packing is the most effective way to help ensure items make it to their destination in one piece. The post office offers the following tips:

■ **Think heavy:** Heavy corrugated boxes are a good choice for shipping most items. Cardboard shipping tubes are a good option for long, thin items.

■ **Fluff it up:** Pack breakables inside a cushion of packing material. Brennen suggests packing peanuts or bubble wrap for fragile items.

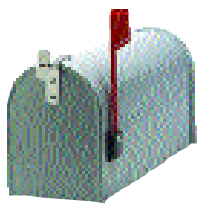
■ **Pack tightly:** After items are packed inside the box with the packing material, give the box a good shake. If the items inside can be heard moving around, they need to be packed more tightly.

■ **Under wraps:** People tend not to use enough tape when packing, said Brennen. Tape not only seals the seams, but it also adds to box strength. Using wide plastic mailing tape, seal box seams with about four lengths of tape, he suggested. Don't use duct, masking or strapping tape. Duct tape doesn't adhere well to cardboard, masking tape isn't strong enough and strapping tape can get caught in mechanical shipping processes.

■ **Right size:** Each box can be up to 70 pounds for most shipping methods. Heavier loads require custom shipping. The base post office offers maximum box size visual aids in the main lobby.

For post office hours and other information, visit the Eifel post offices link at <http://intranet/52fw/52msg/52cs/scs/postal/>. The site also offers other useful links such as temporary mail disposition, change of address, express mail tracking and selective service registration.





## Community Mailbox

### Haunted house

A haunted house opens for visitors today from 6-10 p.m. in Bitburg Annex Caserne buildings 2032 and 2033. Cost is \$3. The house features 20 rooms and a cemetery.

Call Tech. Sgt. Harold Ayers at 452-6132 for more information.

### Drama production

Bitburg High School presents, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m.

The drama production takes place in the BHS cafetorium and admission is free, however donations are accepted.

For more information, call 452-9202.

### Christmas ornaments

The 23rd Fighter Squadron Hawks spouses sell Christmas ornaments Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Spangdahlem Air Base Post Office.

### Singers wanted

Christmas choir organizers seek singers for a non-denominational choir. Duets and solos are also being considered. Practice takes place each Tuesday and Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m. through December. Call Larisa Kennedy at 06562-931258 for details.

### HAWC open-house

The Health and Wellness Center hosts an open-house Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Events throughout the day include: introduction to HAWC programs, healthy cooking demonstrations, 10-minute massage appointments from 10 a.m. to noon, cycle ergometry spouse challenge and relaxation rooms.

Appointments are necessary for the cycle challenge and 10-minute massage.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Matt St. Pierre at 452-9355.

### Youth activity

The chapel sponsored AWANAS club meets each Thursday at 6 p.m. at Spangdahlem Middle School. Activities are geared for school-aged children. Children ages 3-4 may attend if the parents volunteer.

E-mail eifelawanas@yahoo.com or call 06562-932189 for more information.

### Camp Meeting 2002

Camp Meeting 2002, a spiritual celebration, takes place Wednesday through Nov. 8 at



Staff Sgt. Timothy Cook

### Community Day

**Senior Airman Aaron Gooch, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal, talks with visitor Leslie Bradford at Community Day Oct. 25. About 400 local community members, including media representatives, visited Spangdahlem Air Base to learn about the mission here.**

7 p.m. at the Evangel Tempel Fellowship Church on the old Bitburg Air Base. A gospel concert takes place Nov. 9 at 4 p.m. and a special service takes place Nov. 10 at 11 a.m.

For more information, call 06561-683896 or Staff Sgt. Eunice Porter at 452-6050.

### Planning seminar

A post-secondary education planning seminar, hosted by Bitburg High School, takes place Thursday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the BHS cafetorium.

The evening, dubbed "Life after BHS," offers information from high school staff and family support center members, as well as recruiters from the Army and Navy.

Topics include college selection factors, financial planning, post-secondary options, Internet resources and a planning calendar. A brief overview of the ExPAN program, featuring a career interest inventory, job descriptions, required course work and more, will be presented.

BHS students and parents are invited to attend the event. For more information, call 452-9202.

### Family support

The following workshops take place in Spangdahlem Air Base building 307. Call 452-9491 to register.

■Preseparation consultation, Monday from 9-10:30 a.m.

■Pre-deployment briefing for active-duty and family members, Tuesday from 8-9 a.m.

■German bills made easy, Thursday from 8-9:30 a.m.

The following workshops take place in Bitburg Annex building 2001.

■Creative critters, Monday from 10-11 a.m.

■Career profiling, Tuesday from 1-3:30 p.m.

■"Please understand me" communications workshop, Wednesday from 6-8 p.m.

■IRA basics, Thursday from 6-8 p.m.

### Red Ribbon event

The 2nd Annual Red Ribbon Ride starts Friday at 1 p.m. from Spangdahlem Middle School. The event features 10K and 20K bike rides for adults.

A new shorter children's course features age group divisions. Finishers and owners of the best-decorated bikes win sports bottles and other prizes. Helmets are mandatory for all riders. Call 452-6559 to register or for details.

### Spouses groups

■The 52nd Mission Support Group and 52nd Fighter Wing spouses meet Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Spangdahlem Air Base building 131 on the second floor.

All MSS/FW spouses are welcome to attend and asked to bring copies of favorite holiday recipes to share.

■The 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron Spouses Group meets Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in Bitburg Annex building 2007.

All LRS spouses are welcome to attend and asked to bring directions for their favorite day trips. Eventually, all day trip directions will be compiled into a book for squadron newcomers. Call Cindy Shaner at 06561-604464 for details.

### CCAF graduation

The Fall 2002 Community College of the Air Force graduation takes place Nov. 14 at 2 p.m. in the Saber Club ballroom. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, call 452-6063.

### Holiday bazaar news

The Eifel Holiday Bazaar 2002 takes place Nov. 15 from noon to 8 p.m., Nov. 16 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Nov. 17 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Hangars 1 and 2.

The event, sponsored by the Officer's and Civilian's Spouses Club, features more than 130 vendors from all over Europe. Proceeds benefit the Eifel military community. Strollers aren't allowed.

Event organizers seek volunteers to help in various capacities. For more information, or to volunteer, call Kelli Owens at 06571-147977.

### Library news

■Children's storytime, each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Bitburg Annex Library. Call 452-9056 for details.

■Reading group, Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Bitburg Annex Library. Meet with others the last Tuesday of each month who are reading featured books. October's book is "Nothing is Impossible: Reflections on a New Life," by Christopher Reeve. Call 452-9056 for details.

### Pet care news

The Pet Spa is located in Oberweiss building 1044. Call 452-9362 for more information or to register.

■PCSing pets must have a health certificate signed by a veterinarian and dated no more than 10 days before travel. Also, all shots must be current.

■Transportation to the Pet Spa kennels takes place each Wednesday. Registration deadline is (close of business) Tuesday. The bus departs Spangdahlem Air Base lodging at 5:15 p.m. and Bitburg Annex lodging at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 per family.

### Developmental screening

Infant and toddler developmental screenings take place each first, third and fifth Monday monthly from 9-11 a.m. in the Educational and Developmental Intervention Services clinic. The clinic is in Spangdahlem Air Base building 161.

EDIS also offers screenings each second and fourth Monday in the Bitburg Annex Chapel. Call 452-8238 for more information.

### MOPS

Mothers of Preschoolers meet the first and third Monday monthly from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in Spangdahlem Air Base building 139. For more information, call the base chapel at 452-6711 or 0656561-6711 or send an e-mail to spangmops@yahoo.com.

### Girl Scouts

Girls Scouts offers girls in kindergarten through grade 12 the opportunity to learn various skills and do activities with youth in their same age group. Call Kannetha Clem at 06575-903627 for details. Local groups also seek volunteers. Call Karen Topolsky at 06561-947769 for more information.

## Der Markt

#### Advertisement policy

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Col. Stephen Mueller

## Accessing Direct Line

The Direct Line program is a way to get answers to questions you still have after using your chain of command.

Direct Lines of general interest will be published in the *Eifel Times* and may be edited or paraphrased for brevity or clarity. Submit your Direct Line via:

■DirectLine@spangdahlem.af.mil

■Mailed to 52nd FW/PA, Unit 3680 Box 220, APO AE 09126

■To PA in building 23.

■Concerns may also be sent via fax to 452-5254.

Anonymous inputs are accepted. To receive a personal response you must include your name and phone number. Call the Eifel Times at 452-5244 for more information.

Number of days  
since last DUI:

24

You have a choice.  
Call Airmen Against  
Drunk Driving  
at 452-2233.

As of Wednesday

# Viewpoint

Oct. 31, 2002

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## Promotions

# How important is promotion? *One senior NCO's 'two cents' could spell big bucks*

By Senior Master Sgt. Anthony Martin  
52nd Mission Support Squadron

Do you trust anyone with your next promotion? You shouldn't. You should trust yourself and "your" actions, in certain areas at least ... after all it is an individual responsibility to be ready for promotion testing, boards, etc.

I'm sending you this message because I just finished doing two things. One was prepping myself (my military personnel data system information, Air Force Personnel Center senior NCO selection folder, etc.) for the chief cycle; and two, helping my customer service section "help you."

I literally spent a complete day, my folks spent much more time, pulling enlisted performance reports and decorations for wing members to ensure missing documents were faxed to numerous officer and the chief promotion boards.

Many of the EPRs and decorations were from many years ago. I feel obligated, not only as a senior NCO but as a personnelist, to let you know that far too many of us did not take the proactive individual responsibility steps to ensure our records were up to speed and accurate.

Please don't take offense ... as I fell into that category myself. My goal with this article is to have everyone meeting a future promotion board to have their personnel records squared away.

If you don't, you are truly hurting yourself and your promotion opportunity ... don't trust this action

to anyone! It's your promotion. If you're not up-and-running on the Virtual military personnel flight ... I urge you to do so. There is plenty of good information and capability there as it relates to promotions.

By the way, when was the last time you looked in your unit personnel record group? Are all your decorations/performance reports on file? I urge you to do this also. So when AFPC asks the military personnel flight to supply a copy of an Air Force Achievement Medal awarded 10 years ago, it is readily available.

I'm in a unique position to see the big picture in this area. I've seen room for improvement and a need for attention that just may assist you with your next promotion selection. Good luck and please make sure your UPRG, promotion selection folders, and military personnel data system data is 100 percent accurate.

Here is some recent information I pulled from the AFPC Web site. I felt it was important enough to share.

■"Personnel officials here say there have been problems with the accuracy of data in the new military personnel data system, and it's important for everyone, especially those meeting upcoming promotion boards, to review their data online for accuracy."

■"Reviewing data through the vMPF is just another smart thing you can do to help ensure selection folders are correct before meeting a

board. If we can get everyone to go into the vMPF and, at a minimum, make sure their personnel data is correct, it will help everyone — especially in a case where we might have a last-minute correction we need to make to a record."

■"The vMPF is an interactive tool that provides a 'live' look into the military personnel data system and lets airmen review, maintain and initiate updates and changes to their personnel records over the web."

■"New vMPF users will need to establish an account, which takes only a few minutes, before using the service. Individuals access the vMPF through the AFPC Web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/> to review personnel data. Click on the "vMPF" logo at the top of the page.

■"Members who find discrepancies with their data in the vMPF should work corrections with their local military personnel flight's OPRs."

In closing, my personal words of wisdom are -- it takes far longer than you may think to complete corrections, etc. It took two months for me to receive a copy of my SNCO selection folder after I requested it.

The bottom line is -- don't delay. Start checking on it today and don't "trust" that your records are accurate until you've verified it yourself. Again, good luck in upcoming promotion cycles. You will be one step ahead if you take my advice.

## Letter to the Editor

# Bitburg High School athletic director thanks community for homecoming help

One of the things that we attempt to achieve, in Department of Defense Dependents Schools, is to create pretty much the same kind of an environment for education that our students would have in a typical high school in the United States.

Of course, for all of the advantages that there are with life in Europe, there are also many disadvantages. Recently, you helped to move the balance sheet a little more in the direction of a "normal" educational experience.

I am willing to bet that you can remember who you were with at a homecoming dance, what you were doing to prepare for some related homecoming activity and a lot of the details of the traditional silliness that accompanies homecoming activities in high school.

You might not remember who sat next to you in 10th grade English or the name of the person who gave the valedictory speech at your graduation. I don't want to downplay the really important aspects of the American educational experience but, as a teacher, I know that the seemingly less important aspects are equally memorable and, in the long run, just as important.

The Bitburg Barons might be situated in the Eifel region of Germany. They might not have the access to the malls, driving their own cars, unlimited fast food places and other hangouts or have more than 100 channels of television to choose from but, with your help, they had a proper homecoming.

We had a weeklong period of hallway decorations, contests involving

pie-eating, trike racing, karaoke., pep rallies, float decorations, crazy costuming and inter-class rivalries. We also, thanks to you, had a parade through the housing area and a bonfire.

The security forces provided us with traffic control and the excitement of flashing lights and a siren. The fine people of the 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron provided wood for our bonfire ... a really big, magnificent bonfire.

The excellent members of the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron fire department, both from Spangdahlem Air Base and the Bitburg Annex, patiently lead the parade with flashing lights and even provided another fire truck to the freshman class to serve as their float. More importantly, they helped to make our fire impressive, but safe, and made sure

that it was completely extinguished at the end.

Additionally, we had super support from the Society for Creative Anachronism as their medieval garb, their mock battle and water balloon-launching catapult added some excitement to the football game between the Barons and the Spartans.

Finally, the community supported the whole effort by patiently putting up with the craziness and lining the streets for the candy-tossing parade vehicles, the band and the walking participants.

The BHS student council, its sponsors and the entire school community thank you for your efforts to make the weekend a special one.

Thanks,  
Ross Calvert  
BHS athletic director

Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless indicated. More synopsis information is available at [www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp](http://www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp).

Bitburg Castle  
Friday

*Stealing Harvard (PG-13)*

Starring Tom Green and Jason Lee. John is a hard working guy who only wants to marry his long time girlfriend Elaine. Elaine and John have vowed to marry once they save \$30,000 for their dream house. Things are fine until John's sister calls to remind him of his promise to pay his niece's tuition, which costs \$29,829 and is due in two weeks. Unable to tell his girlfriend, John turns to his friend Duff to help him make \$30,000 quickly. Duff convinces John to make a short-term commitment to petty crime. (Crude humor, language and drug references.)

Saturday

*Stealing Harvard*

Sunday

*Bloodwork (R)*

Starring Clint Eastwood, Jeff Daniels and Wanda De Jesus. Former FBI director McCaleb, who has recently recovered from a heart transplant, is tracked down by a woman, Graciela Rivers to investigate the death of her sister, whose heart happens to be the one McCaleb received. McCaleb is reluctant to take on the case, which looks like a simple robbery, but eventually relents when clues start to point to a possible murder. (Adult situations, language and violence.)

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

*The Adventures of Pluto Nash (PG-13)*

Starring Eddie Murphy and Rosario Dawson. Pluto Nash, the owner of a night club on the Moon in 2087, finds himself in hot water when he refuses to sell his club to the local mob. Besides this quandry, he'll also have to deal with an evil clone of himself, his robot sidekick, and his gun-toting mother. (Violence, sexual humor and language.)

Thursday

*Bloodwork*

Spangdahlem Skyline  
Friday

*The Tuxedo (PG-13)*

Starring Jackie Chan and Jason Isaacs. A New York cab driver, Charlie McCoy, is hired to chauffeur a spy named Clark Devlin. However, when Devlin falls into a coma and is hospitalized McCoy goes to his house to gather Devlin's belongings. Once there, McCoy accidentally discovers a hi-tech, futuristic tuxedo, which he can't resist trying on. This sets off a series of events, leading to McCoy taking over a covert mission for the U.S. government: to uncover the secret scheme of bottled water broker Diedrich Banning. (Adult situations, language and violence.)

Martin Lawrence Live: Runteldat (PG-13)

Comedian Martin Lawrence takes the stage for a stand-up performance in which he covers everything from his childhood to a series of arrests in the mid 1990s, to a near death experience in 1999. (Crude sexual dialogue and pervasive language.)

Saturday

*Blue Crush (PG-13)*

Starring Kate Bosworth and Michelle Rodriguez. Anne Marie works as a hotel maid to pay the bills, but in her free time she eats, drinks and sleeps surfing. She lives on Oahu in a beach shack with her rebellious younger sister and two other roommates. She's up before dawn every morning to surf and counts the days until the Pipe Masters surf competition, which is traditionally male-dominated. And while she doesn't let anything come between her and her surfing, when pro quarterback Matt Tollman comes on the scene, she begins to realize there's more to life than just the waves. (Sexual content and language.)

Martin Lawrence Live: Runteldat

Sunday

*The Tuxedo*

Monday

*Blue Crush*

Tuesday

*The Tuxedo*

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Times and movies are subject to change.  
For the most current information,  
call 452-9441.

# Idar Oberstein: a treasure

## Holiday resort in Hunsrueck countryside known as ‘world of gems’

By Iris Reiff  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Between the vast basin of the Isle de France and the middle Rhine, the Saar-Nahe basin forms a geological link. At the same time, it forms the border of the southern edge of the Rhineland Schiefergebirge and the sandstone uplands of the northern Palatinate which slope down toward the Nahe River.

Right on the border lies the town of Idar-Oberstein, one of Germany's most interesting holiday resorts, surrounded by beautiful Hunsrueck countryside.

This picturesque town of 40,000 inhabitants is known as “the world of gems.”

With its specialized industry — Institute for Gem Research; the world's first diamond and gem exchange; German Gemological Society, with a gem-testing institute; technical schools; and permanent exhibitions — Idar Oberstein has become the European center of gem and diamond processing and one of Germany's leading jewelry towns.

The famous German Gem Museum, or Deutsches Edelsteinmuseum, features a display of every type of gem in the world, in both the rough and polished state. Plus, people can learn about the traditional craft of the cutter and goldsmith.

Visitors can check out the historic Gem Cutting Center, or Weiherschleife, take an excursion into the caves of the Steinkaulenberg with glittering veins of precious stones or explore one of the commercial exhibitions. Also interesting are some of the old cutting works which are still operated by water wheels.

Idar-Oberstein's most common minerals include rock crystals, amethysts, opals, rubies, emeralds, topaz and, of course, diamonds and other precious stones — many of which are still found in the area of a former volcanic zone.

Tourists come to Idar-Oberstein year-round to hunt for minerals in hillside fields and on cliff walls. They search in quarries for agate, jasper, chalcedony and amethyst. But access to search areas is only available with the permission of the tenant or owner and visitors enter the areas at their own risk.

People can safely wander around on the trails of the old “stone-miners.” A forest trail takes them past more than 30 tunnels which join up inside the mountain to form an extensive labyrinth. The Steinkaulenberg is a monument to the toil that brought the “gem town” into existence.

A visit to the historic mines situated within a nature conservation area, with their numerous tunnels and galleries, is an unforgettable experience for anyone. For a small fee, mineral collectors can dig for treasure in areas especially set aside for them.

Idar-Oberstein is a veritable paradise for jewelry shopping

but also features a number of interesting tourist sites, as well as plenty of entertainment. Take a walk along the picturesque old houses in the valley or stroll through the little marketplace of Oberstein.

Few visitors can resist the Felsenkirche, or Church in the Rock. Those who brave the steep ascent to the church are rewarded with a magnificent view of the town and treasures inside.

Built from 1482-84 by Wirich IV of Daun-Oberstein, the church was restored in 1929 and 1980. With its unique setting in a grotto in the steep face of the cliff, the church has become a symbol for the town.

Situated high above Oberstein stand the two castles — the Old Castle on the Church Rock dating back to 1197, and the New Castle, which was built around 1330 and destroyed by a fire in 1855.

The two castles are surrounded by a wooded parking area containing many rare trees. From the cliff path leading to the castles there are splendid views down into the heart of the town. Within the massive walls of the New Castle the history of the lords of Daun-Oberstein, who resided there, comes to life again.

Beautiful scenery, rocky cliffs, hidden caves, isolated castles and good footpaths make walking a veritable joy in the Idar-Oberstein area. People can also travel through the area by horse wagon on a Hunsrueck safari holiday.

The Deutsche Edelsteinstrasse or German Gem Road begins and ends in Idar-Oberstein.

The Historic Copper Mine near Fischbach and the Herrenberg Slate Mine near Bundenbach are both open to visitors and well worth seeing. The Hambachtal Hunsrueck Leisure Park near Birkenfeld provides unlimited enjoyment with its wide variety of attractions.

Despite excellent Nahe and Mosel wines, Idar-Oberstein has a great culinary attraction — spit-roast meat, which is spicy, juicy and tender.

It's said that agate workers returning from a period of emigration more than 100 years ago brought back the art of grilling meat from South America. The art of spit-roasting has become a tradition over many generations in Idar-Oberstein at all events.

Winter sports facilities at Erbeskopf and Idarkopf, located not far from Idar-Oberstein, offer tow lifts, floodlighting, toboggan runs and good downhill skiing. Several wildlife parks are open all year round and amateur photographers may find excellent subjects here.

For more information on Idar Oberstein and the surrounding area stop by the Idar-Oberstein tourist information office, located on Georg Mausstrasse 2, near the pedestrian zone in the Oberstein part or town, or call tourist office officials at 06781-64421.

To get to Idar-Oberstein, take the Kaiserslautern-Ramstein Air Base autobahn and follow the Idar-Oberstein exit.

Out and About

(Note: Events are subject to change at short notice. To double-check on an event prior to attending, call the telephone information office at 11833 and ask for a number to the tourist office in the town the event takes place. Tourist office agents, who usually speak English, can say whether an event was canceled.)

■Friday is All Saints Day and a German holiday. Stores will be closed that day. It's a quiet day in Germany -- a day of mourning. Catholics will go to church and to the cemeteries to remember their loved ones who have passed.

■Trier sponsors it's annual Allerheiligen fair today through Sunday, featuring an amusement park and entertainment.

■The annual Mosel-Saar-Ruwer wine forum takes place Nov. 8-10 at the Trier

Landes museum.

■Cochem hosts a Federweissen wine festival Nov. 8-10.

...

Information, Tickets and Tours offers the following tours in October.

People should register for trips at least three days in advance. Call the Spangdahlem Air Base Community Activities Center at 452-6567 or the Bitburg Annex ITT office at 06561-945937 for details.

■Dinner and wine tasting, Saturday. Cost is \$39.

■Villeroy & Boch and Ikea shopping, Saturday. Cost is \$20 for ages 3-12, \$25 for adults.

■Medieval Dinner at Cochem Castle, Nov. 9. Cost is \$65.

■Prague and Karlsbad, Nov. 8-10. Cost is \$179 for a single-seat. Double-seat is \$214.

■Verdun for Veteran's Day, Nov. 11. Cost is \$55 for ages 3-12, \$60 for adults.

■Poland shopping express, Nov. 15-16. Cost is \$80 for single-seat, \$110 for double-seat.

■Paris express, Nov. 16. Cost is \$75 for ages 3-17, \$89 for adults.

■Neustadt and Czech flea market shopping, Nov. 23. Cost is \$55 for single-seat or \$85 for double-seat.

■Antwerp express, Nov. 23. Cost is \$35 for ages 3-12, \$40 for adults.

■Oberhausen Mall shopping express, Nov. 29. Cost is \$20 for ages 3-12, \$25 for adults.



# Academy mascot vying for national title

By Master Sgt. Rick Burnham  
Air Force Print News

**WASHINGTON** — He doesn't have the pageantry of the Indian on the horse with the flaming spear, the "homeyness" of that dog from Tennessee, or the in-your-face attitude of that "other" bird in South Florida.

He lacks the tradition of the guy in the leprechaun suit, the ability to pull a wagon like that Oklahoma pony, and the raw power of that big ole Colorado ox.

But, there is one thing the Air Force Academy's mascot has that the rest do not. The "Bird," as he is commonly referred to in Colorado Springs, possesses a firm grip on second place in the Mascot of the Year contest, sponsored by Capital One Bank. And he is very quickly gaining ground on the pussycat from Penn State.

As of Oct. 24, the Bird had captured 35 percent of the vote during the contest, a close second behind Penn State University's "The Nittany Lion," who has 36 percent. A distant third was "Sebastian the Ibis" from the University of Miami with 21 percent.

Pam Girado, Capital One spokeswoman, said the contest is a good way to recognize the team mascots, who she called the "unsung heroes" of college sporting events.

"Each year the best college football players are named to the All-America teams, and for



Courtesy photo

**The Bird, the U.S. Air Force Academy's team mascot, basks in the arms of his greatest fans. He currently is running a close second in voting for Mascot of the Year.**

the first time ever, college mascots will have their own team," she said. "Mascots have a passion and energy that keeps thousands of college football fans screaming and yelling and coming back each week for great football."

In addition to the USAFA, PSU and UM,

the 12 finalists for this year's crown include the mascots from the University of Florida, the University of Tennessee, the University of Southern Mississippi, the University of Alabama, Western Kentucky University, Georgia Tech University, the University of Montana, Syracuse University and the

## Sports Shorts

### Falcons continue win-streak By Capt. Bill Rogers Eifel Falcons coach

The rainbow that arched over Bitburg at the end of Saturday's football game between the 5-1 Eifel Falcons and the 4-0-1 Vilseck Bucs was a fitting tribute to a great season and an equally great game.

Jumping out to a 14-0 lead on a touchdown pass from Will Rogers to Josh Collett, a two-point conversion by Collett, and a scrambling 39-yard touchdown pass from Rogers to Collett, the Falcons once again dominated both sides of the ball to win this extremely hard-hitting contest, 30-14.

With the Bucs fighting back on a questionable blocked punt for a touchdown, Jaques Abram returned the ensuing kickoff 82-yards for a score, with Robert Moss adding the two-point conversion.

The Bucs, fighting to the end, tried to put together a final drive with slightly over two minutes left in the game but Chris Jones, reading a Bucs' swing pass perfectly, intercepted the pass and jogged into the end zone untouched, to seal the victory.

Rogers hit Chris Sullivan, who made huge defensive plays all day, for the final two-point conversion.

With the victory, the Falcons, at 6-1, take over sole possession of first place in the all-Germany league and could claim the league title by beating Rhein-Main in their final game of the season on Nov. 9.

Every player on the team contributed to the team's success this season. The players are Jaques Abram, Brent Allen, Alex Arp, Nick Brunal, Eric Burch, John Collett, Josh Collett, Derian Doody, Rico Garcia, John Harrell, Matt Hurst, Chris Jones, Brian Kent, Albert Kuchler, Alan McGee, Scott McQuiston, Robert Moss, Andrew Nurse, Anthony Nurse, Frank Paz, Chris Ramos, CJ Rogers, Will Rogers, Chris Sullivan, Gary Volk, and Erik Volk.

The team is coached by Bill Rogers, Johnny Collett, Randy Sullivan, Herb Fletcher, Kirt Peterson and Daryl Bagley. Erin Rogers was the ever-present Team Mom.

The Falcons extend a warm thanks to the parents, Eifel community, and command for providing tremendous support this season.

### Recreational trips

Outdoor recreation sponsors the following trips in November and December. The minimum age for trips is 12, unless listed otherwise.

Call 452-7176 or visit the shop in Spangdahlem Air Base building 146, near the Mosel Hall dining facility for more information.

■ Advanced cave rappelling, Saturday. The cost is \$45.

■ Baltic Sea Cod fishing trip, Nov. 9. The cost is \$85 with gear rental, \$75 with own gear.

■ Underground mountain biking and rappelling, Nov. 10. The cost is \$45.

■ Kyll River Fun-Yak Trip, Nov. 16. The cost is \$30.

■ Indoor climbing wall, Nov. 23. The cost is \$30.

■ Sauer River Fall Colors Bike Ride, Nov. 24. The cost is \$25 with bike rental, \$20 with own bike.

■ Thanksgiving ski trip, Nov. 27-31. The cost per-person is \$260 for a dorm room, \$300 for quad room and \$330 for a double room.

■ Introduction to SCUBA, Dec. 1. The cost is \$30.

■ Hike the walled city of Rothenburg, Dec. 7. The cost is \$35.

■ Baltic deep-sea fishing, Dec. 14. The cost is \$75 with own gear, \$85 with rented gear.

■ Underground quad runners, Dec. 15. The cost is \$55.

■ Feldburg ski trip, Dec. 20-22. The cost is \$195 per person in double rooms only.

### Bowling

Eifel Lanes Bowling Center is located in Spangdahlem Air Base building 300. Winter hours are Monday-Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday, holidays and family days from noon to 9 p.m. Call 452-6217 for more information.

■ Color pin bowling, each Friday at 6 p.m. Participants win prizes when they bowl a strike including a colored head pin.

■ Glo-bowling, each Saturday at 6 p.m. The center features new lanes and lights.

■ Family day, each Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. The event features discount games and free shoe rentals.

■ Deployed spouses family day, each Monday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Families of deployed military members can bowl for \$1 per game. Call for details.

■ League bowlers can practice for only \$1 per game Monday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bowlers must present a current league card at checkout. Call for details.

### Fitness center news

The following activities take place at the Spangdahlem Air Base fitness center. Call 452-6496 or 452-6634 for details or to register.

■ Spinning classes take place each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6 a.m., noon and 5 p.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday at 11:30 a.m.

■ The center offers beginner racquetball lessons by appointment.

■ Microfit fitness analyses are available each Tuesday by appointment.

■ Intro to weight training takes place the second Thursday of the month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

■ Selectorising training takes place the

University at Buffalo.

First Lt. Chris Backus, cheerleading coach, said the Bird plays a key role in establishing the right atmosphere at academy games.

"Sometimes it can get really intense during the game," he said. "The Bird adds a little levity to the situation. He's big crowd favorite, especially with the kids."

Tryouts are held each year to determine which academy student will don the uniform and perform before thousands on Saturdays, he added.

"We hold tryouts at the beginning of the year for new mascots, and we judge them on creativity," he said. "They do a skit, and have to have a specific walk and mannerisms. You don't want someone who doesn't look like the bird."

If the team's performance is any indication, this year's selectee is obviously doing something right. The Falcons were 6-1 going into the Oct. 26 game at Wyoming, and need only a win Nov. 9 at Army to wrap up the Commander in Chief's Trophy, recognizing the top team among the military academies.

Fans across the country can vote for their favorite mascot through real-time, online polling at [www.capitalonebowl.com](http://www.capitalonebowl.com) (Air Force Academy Public Affairs Office contributed to this story.)

fourth Thursday of the month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Varsity volleyball

People interested in being part of the Spangdahlem Air Base varsity volleyball team can attend practices each Monday through Thursday from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

For more information, call Jeff Halloway at 452-7688.

### Sumo suits

Sumo suits are available for rent at Eifel East Youth Programs. Suits are available for day or weekend rentals.

The price is \$60 for a day or \$100 for a weekend. The price includes two suits, hats and a mat. For more information, call 452-7545.

### Youth sports

The Bitburg Annex youth programs sports office is now located in the fitness center. The hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 3-8 p.m. Call Alicia Culham at 452-9410 for more information.

### Recreation registration

Registration for Tae Kwon Do instructional classes is currently ongoing in the Eifel West Teen Center, building 58, for ages 7 through adult.

Additionally, dance and gymnastic registration is ongoing for ages 2-18. For more information, call 452-9022 or 452-7545.

### Coaches needed

Youth sports seeks volunteer coaches and officials for the upcoming basketball and cheerleading season for children ages 5-15. For volunteer information, call Tom Gilbert at 452-7545.